

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1905.

Class Mall Matter.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as-Second

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid. DAILY, Per Year ..... 6 00 BUNDAY, Per Year...... DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Tear ...... 8 00 DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month...... 70 Postage to foreign countries added.

of Manhattan, New York,

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#### The Spur and the Snaffle.

WELT, tempered by the mature wisdom of the Senate (a condition never absent from the minds of the framers of the Constitution), cannot fail to guide us along lines of sobriety and safety. When our excellent Chief Magistrate is right he has no warmer admirer, no stancher henchman than THE SUN. He is for the most part right, always so by intention; but his most intemperate worshippers must admit that the impetuosity of youth sometimes gets the upper hand of his native judgment. It is on these occasions, and only on these, that THE SUN has felt an admonitory impulse and has given expression to it in words of temperate and suave reproof.

Mr. Roosevelt is always wisdom itself when he permits himself to take time of social activity, from the drawing room enough, and he must surely see that the and the ballroom of fashion to the shop late action of the Senate is the best thing and the factory of the world of industry. that could possibly have happened to him or to the country. For some time he has manifested a brilliant and even fascinating tendency, the very picturesqueness of which was thrilling to a mind which, like his, can but ill brook the commonplace in either life or office. A moderate reflection must convince him that a check to this tendency, which in the nature of things he could not himself administer, was as necessary as it

was salutary. The whole country is grateful for what has occurred. It feels relieved and reassured. Its confidence in Mr. Roose-VELT is not only unabated but is vastly enhanced, and the reason that this is so is that it appreciates the wholly admir- graces of womanhood, both spiritual able and manly temper in which he has and physical, and it will be seen that taken the action of the Senate. A weaker Mrs. Corbin, in her letter to-day, exand less masterly President might have presses the same opinion. So far as we resented it and have proceeded to the are concerned, however, we discern no excess of a seeming or real retaliation. such deterioration, but rather observe a Mr. ROOSEVELT has done nothing of the more perfect flowering of beautiful kind; his bearing is that of the young TELEMACHUS receiving with mingled dignity and filial affection the admonitions of MENTOR.

So may we fare for four years more and our President grow in wisdom and every day fortify himself in the affections of the nation!

## The Always Engaging Woman Ques-

The many letters on woman suffrage which we are now receiving from women. They are to "begin at once and go to ownership; after predicting that Govovnership; after predicting that Govovnership is a supplied to the public has long been entirely familiar. revival of feminine interest in that question. Actually, however, there is probably now less public interest in it, among both men and women, than there was a

generation ago. In that period there has been something approaching a complete revolution so far as concerns the rights and activities of women. As a correspondent remarked in THE SUN the other day, the women of the society called fashionable have been brought far more conspicuously before the public. When about a generation ago our newspapers began to report private entertainments, of which women were then and are still the chief figures, they pushed American women into the same light of publicity in which their sisters of the aristocracies of Europe had always lived. At first, there was something of an outerv against the innovation, more or less genuine, as an interference with peculiarly private and domestic affairs. It was raised by men rather than women, for manifestly the publicity was not ungrateful to the women concerned. Now the reporting of such functions is expected and desired, if not provoked, by those giving them, though at the moment in a very limited section of the circle of fashion there is said to be an effort to create a revulsion from such publicity. If, however, the names of these ostensibly retiring characters should be omitted from newspaper reports of functions of fashionable prominence it would soon be demonstrated that their modesty

One of the strongest forces in bringing about the social distinction most desired by that circle has been the publicity given to its doings and the members of it. The phrase, "the 400," coined by a self-appointed but readily accepted social drum major, singled it army is particularly interesting and sugout for special celebration at home and abroad and kindled ambitions to enter | much discussion concerning the large its ranks which have brought in many promising recruits. In truth, its vitality has come from publicity or has the leaders and the law givers, it is they

is an affectation.

before the public. Meanwhile, women have gained all the leaders in the organized movement for their emancipation from the restraints on them then imposed by civilization contended, with the sole exception of the suffrage. They are admitted to colleges and universities, no department of trade and industrial or professional activity is closed against them, and long before this they would have been admitted to full political equality with men if they, or the great majority of them, had not their social antecedents. resisted that final innovation. In only

are the newer States of Wyoming, Colounited earnestly in its favor.

So great is the opposition of women to such suffrage that they have formed associations to concentrate their influence against it. Whenever a proposal to grant political equality to women is made in a State Legislature its women Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing going through that experience now. If from the "plain people." In the army, Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough | we gave full liberty to the discussion it | too, are many officers who have risen would fill columns of our space con- from the ranks. tinuously, and the great majority of the

the side of the opposition. To-day we print three letters on the The overflowing energy of Mr. ROOSE- to the affirmative the advantage by useless to continue the controversy, for it is over a question in which there is comparatively little interest among men, or women either. Woman suffrage is ever comes, when women themselves are united in asking for the suffrage. Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow; but the vast majority of women refuse to strike the blow, so far as concerns equality with men in the suffrage.

Elsewhere, however, they are asserting their freedom in every department | cial refinement. They have emerged from the seclusion of domesticity into the broadest light of publicity. A physician who wrote to us the other day thinks the consequences are bad, so far at least as concerns the women of fashionable society; but obviously the movement of women toward the brightest blaze of that light will continue at an accelerated pace. Will it finally force them into the sphere of politics and make them there as prominent and forceful factors as they are now in purely social life and in the world of professional and industrial activity? Our medical correspondent lamented that already they have suffered deterioration so far as concerns the best womanhood.

#### On the Trail of the Oil Company.

There is to be an official investigation of the Standard Oil Company. Miss TARBELL's dignified analysis of its iniquities and Mr. Lawson's pyrotechnic verbosity have not served to stale its infinite variety. The sleuth hounds to lay bare to the public that with which that when you take away the right to the bottom

This work will probably draw on the public treasury for more than \$100,000. It will be found that the Standard Oil Company has secured control of the market by buying out, squeezing out and freezing out its competitors. It will be found that the company saw fit to stop buying oil in Kansas and that those from whom it had been buying were losers by the suspension of their sales. It will be found that the company can pay any fine that may be imposed upon it, or the cost of any suit that may be brought against it, by making the public pay a cent or two a gallon more for its oil. Among other discoveries it may also be learned that while individuals by the thousand, have been injured in purse by the commercial methods pursued by the company, other thousands have found well paid employment through its operations and millions have bought burning oil at prices which are far from extortionate and which are less than half the prices paid a few years ago.

By all means let all rascals be shown up. If there are any in the beef business, show them up. If there are any in the oil business, show them up. If there are any in the railroad business, show them up. If there are any in official life, show them up, and spare none.

What is the public most likely to get as a result of the expenditure of more than \$100,000 and the revelation of that which is already well and generally known? Verily, it may get a good, hard, healthy run for its money.

#### A British Baron's Son's Enlistment in Our Army.

The discovery that a missing son and heir of a British Peer had enlisted in our gestive at this time, when there is so percentage of desertions from both the

army and the navy. The enlistment in our army of a fordepended on pulsation and of social culti- the legal rate of speed and while doing society and in all society of fashion, in vation, however, is by no means an so killed a person liable to prosecution this country more especially, women are extraordinary event. When our civil and punishment for manslaughter in the war was in progress many foreigners second degree. The punishment for chiefly who have been made prominent of that sort and of military experience manslaughter in the second degree may tion of getting commissions in the army, public and legal rights for which the early and the instances where, failing to get the enactment of a law providing severe foreigners of education belonging to road or the ordinary decencies of life. families of more or less social distinction in their own countries. Among the enlisted men of the army are also Ameri- verely an old man in one of the highways cans of a similar character as regards | in The Bronx last fall, wrapped the vic-

under whom they serve, and generally, rado, Utah and Idaho, and even in them in both the army and the navy, the operators responsible for collisions were feminine sentiment does not seem to be distinction between officers and men in those respects is not so broad as many people imagine.

Our system of officering the two services is on the whole democratic. The appointments of cadets for the Military and Naval Academies-outside of those "at large," conferred by the President. advocates are counteracted and out- usually from among the sons of men numbered by stout and even passionate | who have rendered conspicuous military women opponents. Whenever we admit | service to the Union-are made by each to THE SUN a letter from a woman in , Senator and Representative in Congress, behalf of woman suffrage we get so many and the custom of selecting these letters from women protesting against by competitive examinations now prethe innovation that we regret having vails largely. It happens, therefore, allowed the controversy to start. We are that a great part of the officers come

Under the apprentice system of the women controversialists would be on navy, introduced for the purpose of improving the quality of the enlisted service, by which minors between 15 and subject, selected from many received. 17 years of age were enlisted until atmost of them in opposition, but we give taining their majority, many boys of excellent antecedents were brought in; printing two on that side. It would be but it has been found by experience that very few have reenlisted on coming of age, and the large expenditure of the Government on their naval training seems not to have been justified in the now even less a question of practical results. That is, the experiment has politics than it was a generation ago, and not been successful. Our correspondit will never enter into politics as a con- ents among the enlisted men, however, siderable issue till the time comes, if it | who have contended that the wardroom does not by any means contain all the education and refinement on board a ship of our navy have facts to sustain

their assertion. Among the enlisted men, of our army the Hon. ARTHUR REGINALD FRENCH will find comrades who are fully his equals in education and conventional so-

In the Grosvenor Gallery. If ever the complete confessions of that great and good Ohio statesman Gen. CHARLES HENRY GROSVENOR are published the world will have a work full of humor, self-revelation and Congressional psychology. A slice of those delectable memoirs is in the Congressional Record of Feb. 16. So long has it taken the Athenian sage to smoothe and burnish his railroad rate bill speech made in the House, Feb. 8.

Rich is this characteristic appreciation of the Grosvenorian elastic cushion political game:

" I had occasion something like a year ago to defend the President of the United States against assaults upon him by the Democratic minority, and among other things which fell to my lot was to defend him against assaults I myself had made upon him." [Laughter and applause.]

Excellent opportunism. One thinks of that ingenuous French officer who, sternly called to account by Secretary of War Knox, whom he had asked for an office, for having abused WASHINGTON scandalously, said: "O, I meant noth-

ing; I thought it was popular." One more picture for the Grosvenor Gallery. After praising the railroads, admitting that the railroad rate bill amounts to a proposition "to seize \$12,-000,000,000 worth of property to-day handled and managed to the tremendous advantage of the people of the United of the Bureau of Corporations are to be States," and make that property subject set on its trail, hotfooted and relentless, to the caprices of politics; after admitting ernment control of coal mines and Government regulation of the price of labor will be the next steps, Gen. GROSVENOR right-about-faced gayly and closed with-

out a grin or a wink: " And now comes the pertinent question. I am asked, 'If all this be true, why do you vote for the bill?' I voted for the bill to repeal the canteen law. believed at the time that it was an unwise vote. know it now. I did it because there was such a public clamor that the people would take nothing less. The Populistic idea that the people should own the ratiroads and that private ownership in a railroad is a myth is being fostered and promoted in this country to an extent that is astonishing, and the people have been taught to believe that the railroad management of the country is in enmity to their interests, and after a long study of this subject by the able committee that produced this bill the score, by the hundred, perhaps by | I am not willing to put my own judgment up against the judgment of that committee when the action of that committee seems to be demanded by such a popular clamor in the country. I do not stop to discuss how that clamor arose. I do not stop to discuss that during the mighty campaign of 190 I never heard the subject broached. I do not stop o discuss the phenomena of this popular uprising. but I how to the apparent demand that something nust be done, and I am trying to do the best I can.

" As a lover of my country and as a friend of the common people I pray that good may come from the passage of this bill. If it does, the men who have projected it shall have the honor. If it does not and evil results they shall have the assurance, so far as my voice goes, that they have bonestly done the best they could."

Gen. GROSVENOR is franker than most of his colleagues. They, too, belong in the Grosvenor Gallery. They vote not according to their knowledge, their belief, their best judgment, their conscience, but according to their understanding, often their misunderstanding, of what the people want.

What a compliment to pay to the peo ple, to think and say in effect: "This is a fool bill, but the people favor it."

# Automobile Manslaughter.

Senator THOMAS FRANCIS GRADY'S bill. introduced in the Albany Legislature last week, for the regulation of automobiles would make the driver who exceeded came to tids country with the expecta- be imprisonment for fifteen years or a fine of \$1,000, or both. Unquestionably such a commission, they enlisted as penalties for reckless automobilists private soldiers were not few. Since | would be approved by the public. Sevthen and up to the present there has eral recent incidents have shown that probably never been a time when in there is a class of car operators who have the enlisted ranks there have not been no regard for the laws, the rules of the

It was one of this class who, after his machine had struck and injured setim in a blanket and left him unconscious In the navy also there may be found by the roadside, running away from the four States of the Union have women enlisted men who in education and re- scene of the accident to avoid its consebeen granted the full suffrage, and these | finement are on a level with the officers | quences. There have been a number of

intoxicated and entirely unfit to hold the wheel. The number of lawbreaking automobile owners is declared to be a small fraction of those who use cars, but they are sufficiently numerous to warrant drastic legislation for their pun-

ishment and suppression. The conviction and imprisonment for long terms of a few automobilists guilty of running their machines at dangerous rates of speed would have a wholesome effect. For killing a man the penalty imposed on a chauffeur should not be less severe than that inflicted on any individual whose recklessness causes the death of another.

Does not the President regret that the mathematical mind of the Hon. ELIHU ROOT is no longer at his service to defend the infinitesimal recess theory against the aspersions of SPOONER?

Twice within six months the residents of Long Island towns have been worked up to a point of indignation at which they were ready to take the law into their own hands and inflict summary punishment upon negro lawbreakers. In each case the authorities were able to protect their prisoners and save their lives. If it had not been for the prompt and decisive measures adopted yesterday by the Oyster Bay constables a negro might have failed to get a 'square deal" under the very eaves of the Hon. THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S home.

#### For Holidays Always on Saturday.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The men and the deeds celebrated by our holidays are well worthy of the time given to them, and the education and inspiration of genius that those ceremonies and themes afford, should ever abound.

As these are facts of grand careers and achievements mere days for such commemoration are unimportant. Days should be selected that are most suitable and that most nearly conserve the employed and business interests, disturbing their economy and the convenience of the public to the least extent.

All our public holidays should be celebrated on Saturdays. The following day being Sunday, the weekly public holiday of rest, religion and recreation, makes the holiday preceding it the more useful and enjoyable and does not break into the following ness week as Monday holidays do, to the disadvantage of labor and business alike.

All religious days and birthdays of great men may be celebrated by the ceremonials and functions that please those interested and on the very days they desire, but in no way require the setting aside of public days such as we wish to provide for our great national characters and events, which form in an educational sense the landmarks of

Many favor the selection of a day in August for President Day, taking the place as a public holiday of Washington's, Lincoln's and McKinley's birthdays as now celebrated However, it might not please all to have less holidays. Let us have them better distributed throughout the year and thus made more enjoyable and popular.

On this plan we should have our holidays celebrated as follows: New Year..... First Saturday in January.
McKinley......Last Saturday in January. .. Second Saturday in February

.. Last Saturday in February .. Last Saturday in May. Washington ..... Independence ....... First Saturday in July. President .........Second Saturday in August. Labor Day ..........First Saturday in September. Election Day ...... First Saturday in November Thankagiving ..... Last Saturday in November Last Saturday in December. This plan would be a boon to labor, manu-

a great advantage to all. H. W. FOOTE. NEW YORK, Feb. 17.

#### Military Career. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The passing rope. of Gen. Lew Wallace brings to mind an incident in his experience in military affairs that did not give any intimation of his subsequent distinction

either as a military chieftain or as an author. encampment of several militia companies from Indiana and Kentucky. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buck-ner was commandant and Mr. Lew Wallace, First Lieutenant of a Crawfordsville organization, was appointed Adjutant. At the first guard mounting, a new experience for Mr. Wallace, he got mixed up somewhat, having the sergeants, corporals and privates of the guard all in one rank, without regard o relative positions. Gen. Buckner who we looking on with evident dissatisfaction, said to m "Captain, kindly go over and show Mr. Wallace Regulations in his hands.'

A few years ago Gen. Wallace was at the Waldorf-Astoria, and Gen. Buckner at the Fifth Avenue, and I brought them together. "Wallace," said Buckner. But we begin to see the course of conversation, "your military his and mine were somewhat different. Your first edly, but you learned something during the war, and ended in a blaze of glory, while I graduated at the Military Academy, and well—you know the finale—allow me to ring the bell." PELRAM MANOR, Feb. 16.

## Inconsistency in the Courts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A gentleme while waiting for a party of friends at Weber's Music Hall on Broadway on the evening of Feb. 15 lighted a cigarette, and, without expectorating in any sense of the word, blew some loose tobacco from the cigarette out of his mouth. He was im-mediately arrested, like any common thief or pickpocket, and hustled off to the Tenderioin police station. There, after he had been searched, his pedigree taken and the formal charge against him be called nothing but a disgrace to a civilized city.

He was not informed as to what ball would be sceepted for about an hour, when a friend managed o find out that \$100 would liberate the prisoner The ball was produced and the prisoner released with orders to appear at 8:30 o'clock the next morning at the Jefferson Market court. Then he was fined \$2. The Magistrate accepted the word of a policeman. I noticed while my friend was waiting in the Jefferson Market court four distinct violations of this anti-spitting law which occurred behind the railing in that court, the offenders not being prisoners, but either lawyers or court officers,

## Commodore Barry's Wives.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In to-day issue of THE SUN Daniel Kelley says: (Barry's) remains repose beside those of his second wife"; "this second wife was of Swedish descent," and "she died before Barry." Barry's first wife, Burns or Cleary, died Feb. 9, 177-, On July 7, 1777, he married Sarah Austin, who died on Nov. 13, 1831, PATRICK FORD, Jr. NEW YORK, Feb. 17.

# From the annual report of Governor W. H. Hunt. Order prevails throughout the island. Neve

since civil government was established, has there been a call for the military forces. We have relied upon the Porto Rican insular police, which is well able to meet any situation that may arise Record Year for Trade Marks From the Trade Mark Record. of Patents, 3,446 trade marks, prints and labels were registered in the Patent Office during 1903. This is the largest issue of certificates of registration in the

#### Invitation to Walk Slow. From the Atchison Globe. Tom Corbin died near Rushville the other day

history of the office.

and one of the neighbors was looking for pallbearer. He went to Ben Stuart and said: "Ben, how woul you like to walk slow behind Tom Corbin?

Comfort. n fifty years from present date, If you are still alive then can sli and brag about

cases in which the evidence showed that IMPORTANCE OF THE ORINOCO. United States Control Essential to Main-

tenance of Monroe Dectrine. An electric launch, carrying a small party of explorers up the Parana River from Buenos Ayres to Corrientes, can proceed due north from the latter Argentine town through the geographical centre of South America to Manaos, on the Amazon; thence via the Negro, Cassiquiare and Orinoco rivers to the Venezuelan coast; over the American Mediterranean (the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico) to New Orleans, and so up the Mississippi and Missouri to the head of navigation, the explorers bringing to the people of the Mississippi Valley specimens of the products of the little known lands in the interior of the southern continent-bringing stories of adventure, stirring accounts of experience and observation there, bringing real information

for the first time home to nearly every one. The boat, it is true, must be constructed in such a manner that it may be carried around obstructions to navigation, since a portage between the Amazon and La Plata river systems and certain rapids in the Orinoco and Negro must be anticipated. And, because there is not at present a good unbroken inland through route for larger vessels between the Caribbean Sea and the estuary of the River Plate, the achievement thus suggested may appear at first sight to be of great scientific interest rather than of

great practical value. I shall try to prove in this article that the Orinoco link in the chain of waterways between our Northwest and the remote Southeast of South America has a value which it would be sheer folly to overlook. Let us see what consequences flow from the fact that this long voyage by river ways can be made in a specially designed boat, even under existing conditions.

And, first, the bare suggestion of such a royage stirs our imagination so that we shall see that it is time to stop thinking only of the unessential, the people, when we think of Venezuela. It is time to begin to realize the essential, the river.

Venezuela is a country of miscreants? Say, rather, that it is the country of the Orinoco-for our national development in the near future more essential than any other river beyond our own boundaries. The miscreants are few-merely the insolent minority in a population averaging less than four persons to the square mile. The land is vast-so vast that, when the court of arbitration in 1899 awarded to Great Britain a slice of its territory which was larger than the State of New York the transfer of ownership attracted little at-

The control of navigation on the Mississippi River did not seem worthless to our ancestors, though miscreants not a few dwelt in the Mississippi Valley. But the systems of rivers to which the mouths of the Orinoco give access-to which the Orinoco is our gateway and near approach -are equal to four or five Mississippis.

When Columbus sailed past the mouths of the Orinoco he reasoned that such a torrent proved the existence of a land mass of continental dimensions. Humboldt, more than three hundred years afterward found that the Orinoco was joined to an affluent of the Amazon. The people of the United States, preoccupied with great enterprises elsewhere, let another century go by without taking the trouble to realize that the propinquity of the Orinoco, and no other circumstance whatever, would enable them to make good their claim of predominance in the Western Hemisphere; that unless their footing in Venezuela should be assured, and peaceful conditions established so that, by way of the Orinoco, facturing and business interests and, I ber'eve, a practicable north and south route for through the heart of the continent, the Gen. Lew Wallace at the Beginning of His America would inevitably become commercial and political dependencies of Eu-

Our people did not know or care to know for knowing and caring) that so long as the Orinoco should remain subject to the caprice of Venezuela, and therefore an unimproved route, it would be impossible for the United States to prevent the acquisition by military Powers from across the seas of a control in all the region beyond (practically the entire continent except the coast strips west of the Andes and north of the equator), which would in effect be equal to territorial aggrandizement on an now to mount guard: he knows absolutely nothing enormous scale—in other words, impossible it, although he has a copy of the Army to enforce the Monroe Doctrine as laid down by President Roosevelt in his speech

> But we begin to see that the President spoke like a prophet. He spoke as a leader, too, for the people by their approval have made his words their own. Now as to the Argentina-Venezuela and

Louisiana-Minnesota route. A continent being at stake, mere geography becomes interesting. I need not ask the reader's patience for repeating familiar things, since it is perfectly plain that we are simply running across them to reach, as quickly as possible, a wholly new point

of view. The sailing distance from Pernambuco. Brazil, to some of the coast cities of western Europe is less than to New York. Besides, the superior facilities for transportation between Europe and the eastern and read, he was locked up in a cell so flithy that it can southeastern coasts of South America are steadily increasing the advantage of our rivals. Southeastern America, for all purposes of social intercourse, including nearly every kind of intimate association which. with the lapse of time, inevitably binds nations together, can be reached much more easily from Europe than from the great centres of population in the United States Moreover, such inducements are offered to colonists from Europe that Argentina, for example, in 1901, was reenforced by three times as many immigrants in proportion to the total number of inhabitants as the United States. A large part of the southeastern coast receives from Europe ideas, manners, fashions, culture, immigrants.

Now, within the coast region most subject to European influences are the mouths of four great rivers, natural avenues of internal transportation and communication piercing the continent. Only the fifth and last great river, which can be called an avenue in the same sense, the Orinoco is comparatively near to our ports. But the advantage for us in this case is enormous. From New York or New Orleans to the mouths of the Orinoco the sailing distance is only one-half as great as the distance between western European ports and the nearest South American rivers or important harbors.

In the vast central regions precoclous streams, endowed almost from the start with the volume that elsewhere characterizes full grown rivers, run side by side in opposite directions, approaching each other so nearly that they furnish a choice of almost continuous waterways between the far south and the north coast. As all know, the rainfall is one of the trustworthy things in the central part of South America. Wherever canalization is required, engineers will find that there is available for the purposes an inexhaustible supply of water which can be directed into the best natural of transportation in respect to which South | learning that the colonists read, will quite | hangingest town in Entucly.

America above the tropic of Capricorn can be made to excel all other inland regions, whether of the Western Hemisphere or the Eastern. This applies equally to the upper Paraguay and Parana, and to the country north of the Amazon, where important works are required at several points,

as I have said before. SERTCH-MAP OF SOUTH AMERICAN RIVERS.



1. Buenos Ayres. 2. Corrientes. 3. Mansos 4. Oringeo Mouths.

There is no reason to doubt that, on completion of the labors of the engineers, river steamers of large size could follow the course of the launch described at the beginning of this article, besides penetrating nearly all other parts of the continent.

The Argentina-Venezuela and Louisiana-Minnesota route in theory changes the position of the United States in relation to the southeastern continent, removing the disadvantage and inferiority to which I have Suppose we put aside for the moment all thought of the political and commercial significance of the opening of a gateway so splendid and so near at hand. Consider now, instead, the convenience of the route for scientific exploration. Remember that some of the most recent contributions to the world's knowledge of fluvial highways in South America have been made by the committee constituted in 1901 by the Peruvian Government to propose and organize exploring expeditions; by the Austrian expedition in eastern Brazil; by the expedition to Caupolican, Bolivia, in 1901-1902, which was despatched by Sir Martin Conway; and, a few years earlier, by Rafael Reyes, now President of Colombia. Such scrapwork, utterly inadequate in view of the importance and magnitude of the field to be investigated. cannot be called ridiculous, since it has brought out rather fine examples of gallant endeavor. But think how systematically, steadily, rapidly our exploring expeditions sailing in through the Orinoco would reach the eastern slopes of the Andes, par excellence the prohibitive wall of the world, and search the fertile desert between

that wall and the Atlantic! The explorers will discover that the territory drained by the Amazon system, as well as the Gran Chaco and other enormous districts watered by La Plata's affluents, do not constitute a poisonous and ever negligible waste, but in very truth the largest area in the world still unsubdued to man's uses, though so plainly offering

itself to human industry. The rest of our people, without budging from home, will discover that the Orinoco, as an outlet for the products of South America, is quite as near to our ports as we could This fact gives a different meaning ordinary river steamboats could be made to the circumstance that, through those other continental gateways, the Amazon, entire eastern and central regions of South | Tocartins and La Plata estuaries, the interior region may be easily reached by colonists from overcrowded Europe.

The President's saying-his large claim of American predominance—will be warour people did not know or care to know of American predominance—will be waruntil the time came, as it has at last come, ranted by the actual situation when we if others had the same opportunity to observe that
I have had I think they would feel differently about secure from Venezuela perpetual and large privileges touching the navigation of Vene zuela's river; not before.

The Panama Canal is not enough. Will the opening of the Isthmian canal alone produce such results? Most emphatically, no; that will bring our coasts nearer to the western coast-the wrong side of the Andean wall. Let us realize the comparatively narrow limits of the zone in which a radical change, amounting to a reversal of existing unfavorable con ditions and tendencies, can be expected to occur as a consequence of opening the Isthmian canal. We shall see that there is no ground for the belief that the cutting of the Panama Canal will result in enormous gain for the commerce of the United States with the remoter part (the main part, as we have just noticed) of the southern con-

tinent. It is so easy to deceive our people in regard to South American matters. Witness the pernicious and utterly indefensible view they are encouraged to take by a publication of the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department of the United States, entitled "American Commerce" (1899). Ou guileless merchants are given to understand that, after the completion of the canal and of the railway line between Valparaiso and Buenos Ayres, goods from the Eastern and Southern ports of the United State would find a direct route through the Isthmus, along the western coast of South America, and by rail through Chile to Argentina, Uruguay and the best section of

The meaning is that American manu facturers will thus be placed on an equal or nearly equal footing with their foreign competitors in those markets. The facts are that the railway line so pleasantly mentioned is in part a narrow gauge road planned to cross the Andes at a height of 10,500 feet above sea level. And even if this could be regarded as a practicable short cut for cheapening freights, our manufacturers should still be warned that a greater distance in actual miles separates them from the markets mentioned than intervenes between the South American consignee and the European shipper. For example, the total length of the proposed route, via the Isthmian canal, Valparaiso and the Trans-Andine Railway, to the nearest distributing point for the eastern coast, will be at least 5,500 miles, with obvious drawbacks; but the easy voyage from Europe to the same point is about 300 nautical miles shorter.

And now our point of view is fairly won The Panama Canal will not effect the required change or improvement in American relations, political and commercial, with the region east of the Andes and south of the equator. It is easy for us to see now what is certain to happen in case the Orinoco continental gateway can still be opened or shut at Venezuela's caprice when this

year ends or the decade ends. We see that one of the Powers across the seas, absorbing the foreign trade of southeastern communities in which its language is spoken and its national customs and domestic usages maintained, perhaps also owning all the railways, lending money for all the public improvements, teaching in the schools, preaching in the colonial pulchannels, for the development of that mode | pits, writing nearly every word of the new

oertainly, quite easily, by insensible degrees, and never presenting a clear issue for valid objection by the United States, acquire a control which will in its effect be

equal to territorial aggrandizement. If such European nation, in the interests of its children across the seas and with due regard for the welfare and progress of the world in general, shall propose to undertake a work only less beneficent than the great work on the Isthmus of Panama -to open the heart of South America to civilization by improving waterways, and requiring, let us suppose, concessions from Brazil and Paraguay similar to those which we obtained from Panama-will the Government of the people of the United States forbid and prevent? That is not to be magined.

But it is equally impossible to assume that our people will allow matters in all that part of the world to drift along until the conclusion just mentioned shall be forced upon them; until they will have to admit, eating their own words, that the Monroe Doctrine stops short at certain coast ranges and does not extend to southeastern America.

The alternative is-the Orinoco. MARRION WILCOX.

# WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Its Exercise in Colorado Defended by a Woman. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Having been

born and educated in Brooklyn, but having lived

in Denver, Col., for ten years, I feel somewhat qualified to speak of woman suffrage as I found

t there.

Caroline F. Corbin's letter to THE SUN IS so cleyimpression unless its weakness is pointed out.
We may pass over the single case of the corruption of one woman, for, as that letter says, there were two men involved in it; but I beg to dispute the statement that the case points a deep moral. An isolated case of female dishonesty, when alast we know of so many thousands of cases of men's dishonesty in politics, is a sorry argument against woman suffrage. It may be true that some women, perhaps many, throughout the country feel no drawing toward political duties. This is particular larly true in large cities-notably so in the sections of our country where woman suffrage does not exist-but among my host of acquaintances and friends in Denver one only expressed indifference, and she always voted because, the suffrage having been given to her, she felt it her duty to do so. Indeed, I noticed, at first with considerable surprise, that the best women of Denver went to the polls conscientiously, and still remained as sweet, womanly home makers as their sisters in anti-suffragist States. That it may be known that I am free from prejudice, permit me to say that I have never been member of a woman's club, nor have I had any

political duty other than casting my ballot.

Probably Mrs. Corbin would be unable to defend her statement in regard to Kansas. Perhaps she did not mean it to be taken literally, but if her reference to that State is as misleading and unfair as the slur which follows it in regard to the state of anarchy in Colorado, it would better have been omitted. The lawlessness in Colorado which Mrs. Corbin thinks should have been prevented, or corrected, by the female voters, was wholly due to an extreme condition of labor troubles and the present uncertainty following it.

As to the real choice of the people for Governor, it is due entirely to the political machinery, which is not controlled by the women. Surely any one, even the most extreme advocate of woman suffrage, would not claim that the mere fact of women voting would immediately, or in a short time, wholly purify and change conditions or political methods which have been in force for many years. To quote Mrs. Corbin: "The kernel of the whole situation is. Does woman suffrage point a way to the highest and best evolution of the woman soul?

As far as I know, no woman suffragist ever elaimed that it did. It is simply a question of right and wrong. Should not every woman taxpayer have a voice, if she wishes it, in the selection of those who will officially act for her in executive affairs Woman's soul is certainly not eramped nor its of her city, State or country, and she certainly has exerted and is still exerting a powerful fi-ducine for good in the grave question concerning a United States Senator from Utah, and this without the loss of one womanly quality or the holding

of any political office.

Again quoting Mrs. Corbin: "Woman suffrage has not purified politics in Colorado." I am told on legal authority that Colorado has the most ad-vanced laws of any State in the Union for the care and protection of the home and the children, and Judge Lindsey has written: "These laws, in my opinion, would not exist at this time if it were not for the powerful influence of woman suffrage." There is a feeling by some that the casting of a vote by women gives to them a mannish taint or takes from them some of their finer qualities, but

May God bless the women of Colorad EAST ORANGE, Feb. 13. ANNIE T. HALPEY. A Woman's Reply to a Woman Opponent. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: When I finish reading one of Mrs. Corbin's letters against woman suffrage I feel as I do when my four-year-old leans on my knee, and fixing his earnest eyes upon me,

asks. "Mother, why lan't the moon made of green real life held by the lady and the child. We women are still to confine our efforts to the home, are we just as we have done for generations? And how are we to do this successfully, when our water is scanty and impure, our meat at famine prices our milk full of formaldehyde, our gas smoky, our gowns ruined by splitting, our nerves racked by rapid transit," the health of our collateral rela tives ruined by polson in their patent medicine, our children ill or dead of preventable disease, and last, but not least, our money filehed from us for an absurd and unconstitutional barge canal?

#### BROOKLYN, Feb. 14. Mrs. Corbin of Chicago Save the Last Word

Against Woman Suffrage. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Aside from the general fact that women and suffrage are bet-ter kept apart, for the best good of both, the following are a few reasons why taxpaying women

should not be given the ballot: Because the property qualification for voters has been long ago eliminated from our Govern and any return to it in this time when the dangers of plutocracy are not only serious but are being used to incite sedition and violence is ill timed an

Because the majority of women owners of prop erty have become possessed of it through gift or inheritance from the original male accumulators of it, and not by the exercise of any business skill or enterprise of their own. They are passive rather than active property owners, and are thus the less liable to be fitted for the active duties of ownership. As a matter of fact, few of them do vote in those orporations where the ownership of stocks gives

hem that right. Because much of the property in the hands of women has been placed there by male relatives for the sake of those privileges and immunities which the law allows to property so held. In most States women property owners have already more privileges than men, a fact which makes men willing to place property in their hands, in which the themselves hold all a voter's interests.

Because the paramount duties and interests of women lie in a higher sphere than that of the material interests of life, and anything which tends unnecessarily to divert their attention to the selfish and material aspects of the business world sub tracts just so much from their possible usefulness in that higher life which has for its aim the develop ment and improvement of the morals of the home and society. This distinction is already too me lost sight of in our modern social conditions, where the effort to place men and women on a so-called "equality" has resulted in the lowering of the ideals of womanhood in a way that involves great loss to the higher interests of society.

Because the call for suffrage is by no means general on the part of taxpaying women. A large proportion of them, when the question has been raised. have enrolled themselves against it, while many women property owners are among the most ef-ective supporters of the anti-sufrage associations. This country has always erred on of a too liberal rather than a too restricted su frage, and every measure ligreasing this dherally should be carefully scrutinized, and only approved when weighty reasons can be adduced in its favor No such reasons can be found for giving the ballot taxpaying wonen. CAROLINE F. CORBIN. CHICAGO, Feb. 12.

## Something Doing.

From the Monument Enterprise. This morning the sweet slumber of our peaceful and quiet town was aroused by bang, bang, bang, lke the report of firearms, about 3 o'clock. ing that a shooting affray was taking place in some

# Developing a Reputation.

From the Cynthiana Democrat. Lexington is developing a reputation as the